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Geneva, 28 June-30 July 1993
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
Agenda item 14

REGIONAL COOPERATION

Spain and Morocco: draft resolution

Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983, 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, 1985/70 of 26 July 1985, 1987/69 of 8 July 1987, 1989/119 of 28 July 1989, 1991/74 of 26 July 1991 and 1992/45 of 31 July 1992,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 43/179 of 20 December 1988, by which the Assembly declared the period 1991-2000 the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Also referring to resolution 912 (1989) adopted on 1 February 1989 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe 1/ regarding measures to

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1/ See Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, Fortieth Ordinary Session (third part), 30 January-3 February 1989, Texts adopted by the Assembly, Strasbourg, 1989.

encourage the construction of a major traffic artery in south-western Europe and to study thoroughly the possibility of a permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

Conscious that the project for the permanent link will help offer better prospects for the improvement of the transport networks connected to it and for the development of broader cooperation between Europe and Africa,

Also conscious of the economic impact and regional and interregional integration effects of the project,

Taking account, first, of the considerable work done on the project in terms of the surveying of the Strait of Gibraltar site, engineering studies and socio-economic studies and, secondly, of the ongoing programme of work, which should lead, by the end of the year, to the choice of the most advantageous solution,

Taking note, of the recommendations and conclusions of the evaluation report on the studies relating to the project for the period 1982-1993, 2/ prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution 1991/74,

1. Welcomes the cooperation on the project between the Governments of Spain and Morocco, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe;

2. Also welcomes the favourable response by the International Tunnel Association and the Centre for Studies on Transport in the Western Mediterranean to the appeal made in the above-mentioned resolution 1991/74;

3. Commends the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe on the work done in preparing the project evaluation report requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1991/74;

4. Invites the scientific and technical institutions concerned to take part in the special session on the permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar which will be held under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe and the International Tunnel Association in Cairo in April 1994;

5. Invites the States concerned and the competent bodies to cooperate with the Governments of Spain and Morocco in carrying out studies for the implementation of the project and to take part in the International Colloquium on the Permanent Link, which will be held in Seville in 1994;

2/ E/1993/80.

6. Requests the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995;

7. Calls upon the Secretary-General to give his full support to the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to enable them to carry out the above-mentioned activities and, within existing priorities, to provide them with the necessary resources.

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REGIONAL COOPERATION

Benin, Chile, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mexico, Nigeria and Togo:

draft resolution

Strengthening the role of the regional commissions

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1992/43 of 31 July 1992, as well as General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 45/264 of 13 May 1991, 46/145 of 17 December 1991 and 46/235 of 13 April 1992,

Noting with satisfaction the recommendations made by the regional commissions, in response to General Assembly resolution 46/235, to strengthen their effectiveness, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, 1/

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation, 2/ including the account of steps being taken to decentralize functions and responsibilities to the regional commissions in order to strengthen the regional presence of the Organization and to enhance its effectiveness,

1. Reaffirms its support for decentralization as a continuing process to achieve a more effective distribution of responsibilities and tasks between global and regional entities in the economic, social and related field;

2. Endorses the measures taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen the work of the Organization at the regional level, and urges him to continue his efforts in that direction, as appropriate;

3. Recommends to the General Assembly that, in resuming its consideration of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, it adopt the recommendations made by the regional commissions for the strengthening of their effectiveness in order that they may play a greater role, including coordination among United Nations organizations and entities at the regional level under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

Notes

1/ A/47/534.

2/ E/1993/85.